**The Ant Farm**



Rehema sat and stared at a rectangle of glass about the size of small TV screen. Behind the glass, new tunnels and caves were appearing. But this wasn’t a television show. It was live action, going on right now. The inhabitants of her ant farm were hard at work.

The ant farm was a present from her grandfather, a biologist. Rehema’s biggest dream was to become a biologist too, so she was very excited about the gift. The instructions on the box explained that the ant farm would last for years as long as Rehema fed the ants leaf bits and breadcrumbs.

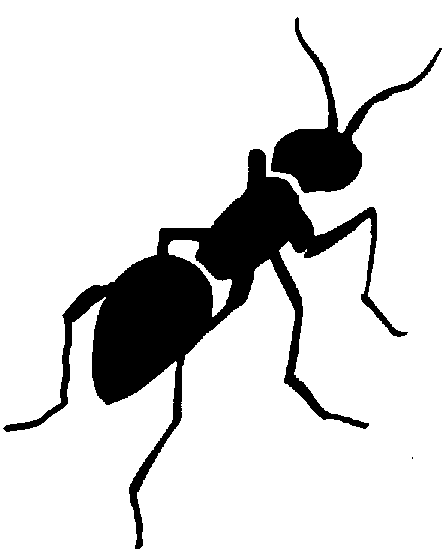
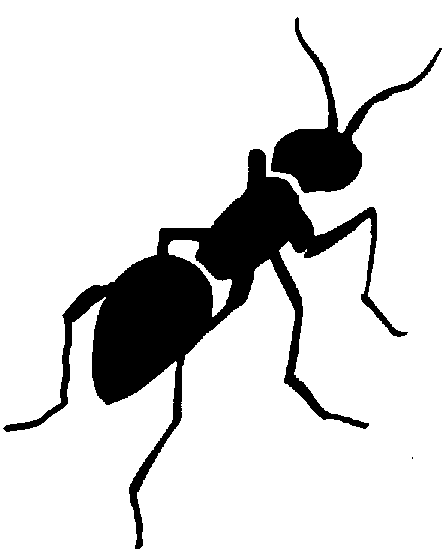
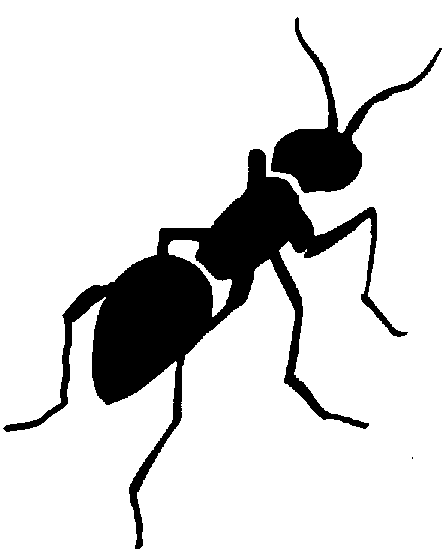
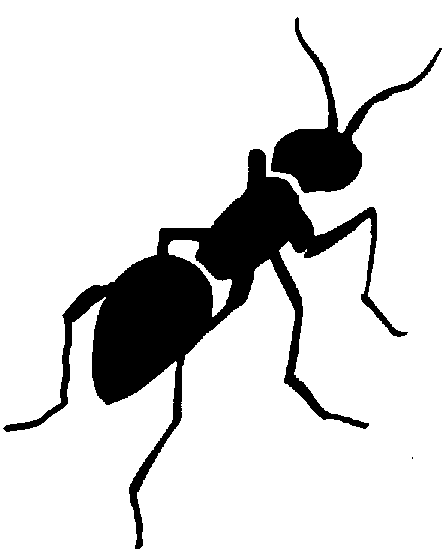
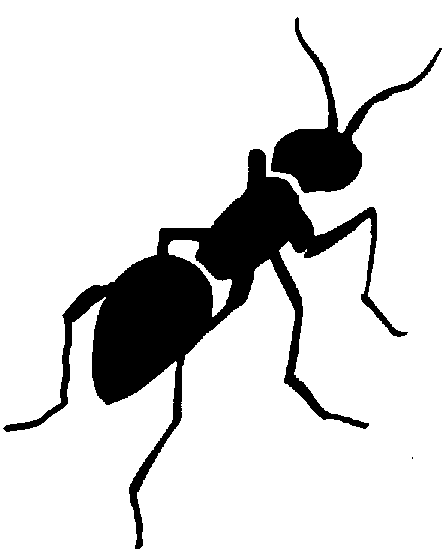
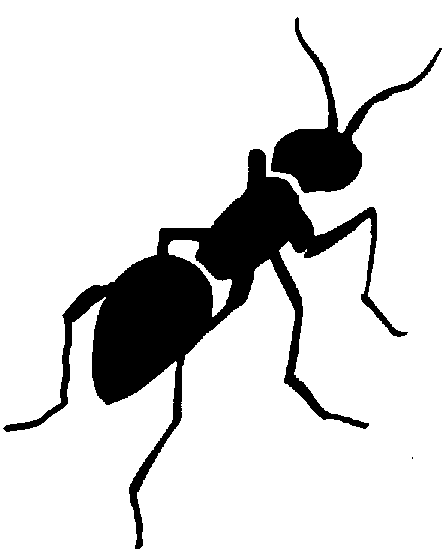
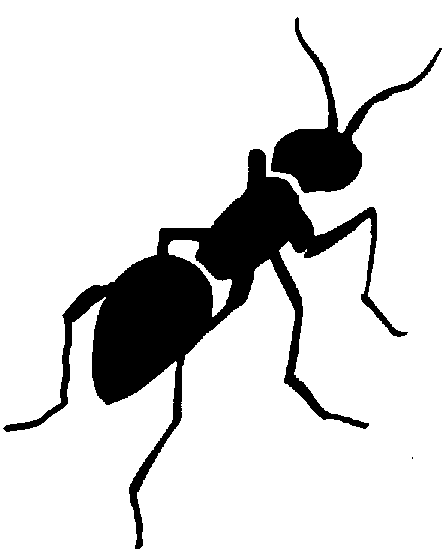
Rehema’s brother Trevor also thought that the ants were fascinating. He would sit and watch with her as the ants went about the business of building their complicated homes.

For the last few days, Rehema and Trevor had noticed something happening. The ant farm was becoming more crowded. Soon it would be overcrowded. Rehema and Trevor felt that they were looking at a city with too many people in it. They began to feel sorry for the ants. Before the family had moved into the suburbs, Rehema had been sleeping in the living room. She and Trevor knew what it was like not to have enough space.

Rehema wanted the ants to have as much space as possible, so she came up with a plan. At first, Trevor didn’t like it, but he agreed after a while. The next morning, Rehema and Trevor carried the ant farm into the garden and took the lid off. Rehema knew that the ants were native to this area, so it was all right to release them. She and Trevor watched the tiny ants crawl out of the ant farm and spread out into the garden. Rehema then saw the ants quickly fall into a line and charge straight towards a dead fly. She was sad to see them go, but she felt that she had made the right decision.

Rehema was a bit worried that letting the ants go might hurt her grandfather’s feelings. After all, the ant farm was a present. That night at dinner, Rehema and Trevor told their grandfather what they had done. To their surprise, their grandfather said, “You have learned the most important lesson about being a biologist – respect for life no matter how big or small.”

The next morning, Rehema went out into the garden. She saw an ant crawling toward the grass, and she wondered whether it was one of the ones from her farm. She made up her mind to learn as much about ants as she could. Then she would study birds and butterflies and lions. She felt like a biologist already.



1. Read this sentence from the passage.

**The ant farm was a present from her grandfather, a biologist.**

Which sentence uses the word *present* as used in the sentence above?

1. Every morning, our teacher checks to see who is present and who is absent.
2. I will have to go to the store this weekend to buy a birthday present for my best friend.
3. Since it is not raining at the present time, I think I will go for a walk before the weather gets bad.
4. Unfortunately, I could not be present at my brother’s baseball game because I was sick with a cold.
5. Read this sentence from the passage.

**Rehema wanted the ants to have as much space as possible, so she came up with a plan.**

Which sentence uses the word *space* the SAME way it is used in the sentence above?

1. The scientists will be sending a space shuttle to Mars to learn more about the surface.
2. There were so many cars at the mall due to the sale, it was hard to find a parking space.
3. Please sign your first and last name neatly in the space provided at the top of the paper.
4. There was not enough space in the movie theater for our family to sit together, so we had to split up.
5. Read this sentence from the passage.

**To their surprise, their grandfather said, “You have learned the most important lesson about being a biologist – respect for life no matter how big or small.”**

Which sentence uses the word *lesson* as used in the sentence above?

1. Every Saturday morning, I have my piano lesson for an hour.
2. Since the teacher was going to be out on Friday, she left lesson plans for the substitute.
3. I knew I better pay attention during math because I was going to have homework on the lesson.
4. After a red marker ruined the entire load of laundry, I learned a hard lesson about checking my pockets first.
5. Read these sentences from the passage.

**Rehema then saw the ants quickly fall into a line and charge straight towards a dead fly.**

Which sentence uses the word *charge* as used in the sentence above?

1. My little brother likes to charge at me when I get off of the bus because he is happy to see me.
2. An additional charge will be added to a credit card if movies are not returned on time.
3. The thief is facing a serious charge for stealing the valuable diamond necklace.
4. My grandfather has a device that can charge reusable batteries.
5. Read this sentence from the passage.

**She and Trevor watched the tiny ants crawl out of the ant farm and spread out into the garden.**

Which sentence uses the word *spread* as used in the sentence above?

1. I had to fix my sheets and bed spread before I could go out to play.
2. There was a large cheese and vegetable spread at the baby shower.
3. When I do my homework, I like to spread my books all over the table.
4. If you spread rumors about someone, you can really hurt their feelings.
5. Which of the following events happens AFTER Rehema tells Trevor her plan for the ants but BEFORE Rehema tells her grandfather what they had done with her ant farm?
6. Rehema and Trevor notice the ant farm becomes crowded.
7. Rehema receives an ant farm from her grandfather.
8. Rehema and Trevor release the ants in her garden.
9. Rehema decides to learn more about ants.
10. Read the sentence from the passage.

**Rehema’s brother Trevor also thought that the ants were fascinating. He would sit and watch with her as the ants went about the business of building their complicated homes.**

What does the word *fascinating* mean in the sentences above?

1. amusing
2. distracting
3. interesting
4. tiring
5. With which statement would the author most likely agree?
6. Being a biologist is a difficult job that requires a lot of hard work.
7. Everything in nature should be respected no matter how small it is.
8. Insects do not make good pets because they are hard to take care of.
9. You should be grateful when you receive a present even if it is unwanted.
10. Which sentence from “The Ant Farm” BEST describes what is happening in illustration at the beginning of the passage?
11. Behind the glass, new tunnels and caves were appearing.
12. Rehema’s biggest dream was to become a biologist too so she was very excited about the gift.
13. The next morning, Rehema and Trevor carried the ant farm into the garden and took the lid off.
14. She saw an ant crawling towards the grass, and she wondered whether it was one from her farm.
15. Which word best describes grandfather?
16. impressive
17. judgmental
18. motivated
19. understanding

Answer Key:

1. Correct Answer B, DOK 2
2. Correct Answer D, DOK 2
3. Correct Answer D, DOK 2
4. Correct Answer A, DOK 2
5. Correct Answer C, DOK 2
6. Correct Answer C, DOK 2
7. Correct Answer C, DOK 2
8. Correct Answer B, DOK 3
9. Correct Answer A, DOK 3
10. Correct Answer D, DOK 2